THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Neglect of Urdu language

707. SBR1 SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Urdu is an Indian language spoken and written from Kashmir to Kanya Kumari;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways in the past gave great importance to Urdu language and the Railways are neglecting Urdu in the recent past; and

(c) if so, what action his Ministry has taken to do justice with Urdu Language

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The information is being collected from Ministry of Hunan Resources and Development.

(b) The Ministry of Railways have always accorded due respect to Urdu Language in the past and it has never been neglected

(c) Does not arise

Safety of passengers

708. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing incidents of theft in trains;

(b) whether it is a fact that many cases of theft reported in the Kerala bound trains recently;

(c) if so, the details of the such cases reported since January, 2006;

(d) whether compensation has been provided to the victims;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of the measures taken for the safety of the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. There has been a decrease in the incidents of thefts of passengers' belonging as against 10846 number of eases of thefts of passengers' belonging reported during the year 2005, 10103 cases have been reported during the year 2006.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. During the year 2006 and 2007 (up to July), the cases of thefts reported in Kerala bound trains are as under:-

Years	Number of Cases
2006	192
2007 (upto July)	102

All cases of Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes on railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the concerned Government Railway Police (GRP) of the State Governments.

(d) and (e) There is no provision in the rules for compensation for loss/theft/ damage of passengers' luggage/belongings unless a railway official servant has booked the luggage and given a receipt thereof to the passenger or unless it is proved that the loss was due to negligence or misconduct on the part of the railways.

(f) According to Entry No. 2 of the State List of the Constitution of India, 'Police' (including Railways and village Police), is a State subject. The State Police has a separate wing called the Government Railway Police (GRP) for dealing with all matters relating to law and order on the Railways. Prevention and detection of crime is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments, and as such, Ministry of Railways has to depend largely on them for control of crime over Railways.

However, to effectively supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) staff are also being deployed to escort many trains and on access control duties in the passenger area to augment the efforts of the State Governments. The following measures have been taken for safety and security of the passengers:-

1. About 2230 Trains are being escorted by Government Railway Police and about 1450 trains are being escorted by Railway Protection Force as on date in vulnerable sections.
2. Regular announcements are being made through Public Address System as well as Loud Hailers to educate passengers regarding the menance of drugging and other crimes.
3. Regular co-ordination meeting with GRP/State Police is being held to share intelligence regarding criminals indulging in crime against Railway passengers.
4. Special squads have been constituted to tackle the menace of drugging, crime against women etc. in vulnerable trains and on stations.

Trans-Asian Railway

709. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed the inter-government agreement that envisages a continuous 89,000 km rail link-the Trans Asian Railway-through three corridors;

(b) if so, whether India would become part of the Southern Corridor-only (11,460 km) that starts from China through Myanmar-Bangladesh-lndia and ultimating at Bulgaria; and

(c) whether Government have initiated action to streamline the security of men and material during transit, quicker and hassle-free immigration check-up and adoption of standard of broad gauge throughout the 11,460 km journey to avoid transshipment?